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ABSTRACT

In the province of Quebec, the role of language and religion has been a significant feature in defining nationality, educating the young, and building infrastructures such as libraries. In contrast to English-Canadian provinces, only after 1960 did the government of Quebec authorize public support for public libraries to serve its francophone population. This paper summarizes some of the events that contributed to a slow, difficult development of Quebec libraries. The paper is the result of research conducted during the summer of 2001. In addition to a research review, several interviews were conducted with people involved in library operations. Research questions were: (1) How did the public library system develop in Quebec? (2) Why are there few libraries? and (3) What are the qualifications of the staff? The paper gives a historical overview covering the period 1635 to 2000. It describes the situation in the region of Bas-Saint-Laurent located on the Gaspe Peninsula, and it concludes with some comments concerning the small libraries at Trois-Pistoles and at Saint-Clement which are parts of the Basque division. Appendixes include chronologies of library-related events and a few sample copies of library documents. (Contains 53 references.) (AEF)

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A POLITICAL HISTORY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN QUEBEC

(Bibliothèques Municipales au Québec)

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Abstract

The development of public libraries in Quebec province has been a slow process. Until the 1960s, the Catholic clergy have dominated the political scene including the libraries. This article summaries some of the events which contributed to the different strategies taken by the Quebec English-speaking Protestants and French-speaking Catholic citizens. This article also outlines the current library services provided by the decentralized CRSBP as found in the region of Bas-Saint-Laurent at two small villages: Trois-Pistoles and Saint-Clement.

Keywords: Quebec, Quebecois, French Canadians, public libraries, bibliothèques municipales, BCP, CRSBP, Bas-Saint-Laurent, Trois-Pistoles, Saint-Clement, French, Catholic clergy.

A POLITICAL HISTORY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN QUEBEC
(Bibliothèques Municipales au Québec)

In the province of Quebec, the role of language and religion has been a significant feature in defining nationality, educating the young, and building infrastructures such as libraries. In Quebec, the public library is an example of an institution in which diversity influences the evolution of society. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, whether one spoke French, was Catholic, and had a father who fished, farmed, mined, or was a logger determined if one would have access to education, to books, and to a library. In contrast to English-Canadian provinces, only after 1960 did the government of Quebec authorize public support for public libraries to serve its francophone population. This paper summarizes some of the events which contributed to a slow, difficult development of Quebec libraries. The Quebec provincial public library system has experienced a lack of clarity concerning its role, its resources, and its leaders (Bouthillier, 1995). Consequently, the public library has encountered minimal supportive legislation even in the 1990s (Crépeau, 1999).

This paper is the result of research conducted during the summer 2001.[1] In addition to reading books and articles on the topic, I interviewed several people involved in library operations. I also worked in a small public library. My research questions comprised:

1. How did the public library system develop in Quebec?
2. Why are there few libraries?

3. What are the qualifications of the staff?

The article gives a historical overview covering the period 1635 to 2000. [Appendix - A] Then it describes the situation in the region of Bas-Saint-Laurent located on the Gaspe Peninsula. It concludes with some comments concerning the small libraries at Trois-Pistoles and at Saint-Clement which are part of the Basque division.

General History

After the conquest of New France by the British in 1760, the citizens with French or English abilities began to design their communities in different ways. For instance, the development of libraries was not a straight line toward progress; rather development took a diamond shape in which the two lines diverged until the early 1940s. [See Appendix - B] Beginning around 1942 the Francophone population began to follow the public library lead of their Anglophone neighbors. By 1959, the provincial government passed a law supporting publicly administrated libraries. Since 1960, public libraries have become a provincial and municipal responsibility to different degrees and now strive to serve their community.

Prior to the 1760s, French clergy managed small religious libraries as part of seminaries. For instance, in 1635, the religious orders of the Recollets and Jesuits collected books from France for their seminarians studying in Quebec (Hanson, 1994; Moodey, 1977). However, in 1693, the clergy burned books which they determined not to be appropriate for seminarians.

Between 1749 and 1759, the Bishop of Quebec complained repeatedly about the poor contents of books held in private collections being read by parishioners. This ecclesiastic control limited literacy and readership in Quebec.

Early Montreal and Quebec Libraries

In the 1770s, to accommodate the demand for books, officials created libraries. In Montreal, Fleury Mesplet, a French printer, created a "cabinet de lecture" or a commercial reading room for readers to read and discuss books (Moody, 1977). Mesplet modelled this facility after ones created by Benjamin Franklin in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (USA).

In the meantime at Quebec City, Sir Frederick Haldimand (a Swiss, Protestant) established a bilingual library for citizens literate in either French or English. The library was housed in the Bishop's Palace. For equity sake, from personal funds, he spent 500 British pounds (equivalent to 40,149 in 2000)[2] to purchase books written in French and the same amount in English (Moody, 1977). In the late 18th century when Haldimand ordered shipments, English books from Great Britain were cheaper than those in French from France. Since the French Revolution in France prevented printing and speedy delivery, the English books arrived faster (Moodey, 1977). Consequently, the collection in English grew at a faster rate than did the collection in French.

For both libraries, the Bishops of Montreal and Quebec along with Catholic clergy made every effort to close these

establishments on the grounds that the reading materials fomented unrest through their liberal ideas and belittled the conservative French-Canadian traditions. More specifically, the clergy claimed that the Quebec library promoted English and Protestant values which were at odds with French-Canadian Catholic theology.[3] When the Constitution of 1791 divided the territory into Bas-Canada (French, Catholic) and Haut-Canada (English, Protestant), the French Canadians and their clergy saw no need to have English materials in their area. Therefore, the clergy tolerated the Quebec library only until 1795 when they ceased to support the facility (Bouthillier, 1995 & 1996; Gallichan, 1992; Moodey, 1977). Although the library continued until 1847 in a different location, its goal to educate the French Canadian concerning current progressive philosophical trends was never met.

In 1824, the Earl of Dalhousie, Governor-in-Chief of British North America, founded the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec. Many of the English books from the Haldimand library were later transferred to the Literary and Historical Society collection (Moodey, 1977). This collection in English has served the Anglophone citizens of Quebec from its original building until today. It remains the only English library in Quebec City.[4]

By 1825, the Ottawa government in Haut-Canada announced that libraries should be accessible to all citizens. In 1828, the Anglophones of Montreal subsequently created the Mechanical

Library (Gallichan, 1992). A year later McGill University offered several libraries for its Anglophone students.

In response, the clergy of Bas-Canada refused to concur and promoted their parish libraries for "active Catholic" parishoners literate in French. These parish libraries had restrictions on borrowing so most parishioners could read "serious" books only in the library under the supervision of the clergy. Since the Catholic clergy and French-Canadian patriots perceived the Anglophone behavior to have become so amoral, in 1837 they rebelled seeking a separate French state. Unfortunately, the Act of Union in 1840 actually placed both territories under the same legislative jurisdiction (Bouthillier, 1995). Lord Durham announced that English was the only official language. The clergy and French Canadians were livid and strove to conserve and safeguard the French-Canadian Catholic culture. The clergy argued that French was the guardian of the Catholic faith and Quebec ethnicity. To appease the Catholic clergy, Durham assigned them responsibility for education, health care, and social welfare of their parish residents.

With this legislation, the Catholic clergy became the intermediaries between the English-speaking, Protestant British government and the French-speaking population. Following the French Revolution, many French clergy fled France for "New France" where they could practice their conservative views, consolidate their power, and protect their parishioners from the onslaught of dangerous liberal, Protestant ideas. To use the

parish library, a patron had to be a resident of the parish, an active church member, and adherent to library rules. Volunteers ran the small parish libraries as a cost-savings measure. These clergy adhered to the *Index Librorum Prohibitorum*, a list of banned books published by the Vatican. The banned books projected an interpretation of life in conflict with the creedal doctrines of the Catholic church." In 1844, to emphasize the clergy's authority, Mgr. Bourget, Bishop of Montreal, condemned the newly opened Institut Canadien. To underscore his abhorrence of the Institut, in 1869 Bourget obtained a Papal decree to place the Institut's annual reports on the *Index* list of banned materials and to forbid membership to Catholics (Moodey, 1977). In a later expample of clerical power, Pierre de Crèvecouer, librarian at the Fraser-Hickson Institute, also experienced the ecclesiastical authority of the Archbishop in 1908 when he refused to submit a list of holdings for the clergy's approval (Moodey, 1977). The parish library became an important avenue of social cohesion and the means to maintaining French-Canadian traditions (Bouthillier, 1995).

The Time of Honoré Mercier and Liberalism

Beginning in the 1880s, the leadership of the National Party and Honoré Mercier assumed power. At the same time, federal representatives particularly from the Anglophone provinces launched a program to create public libraries supported and funded by the provincial governments. These ideas were in line

with those practiced in Great Britain and the United States. For example, in 1882 the Ontario legislature passed a law stating the provincial taxes should support public libraries. The following year, the city of St. John in New Brunswick opened the first tax-supported public library. Then in 1885 in Montreal, the Anglophone community founded the Fraser-Hickson Institute Library (Gallichan, 1992; Moodey, 1997). In 1890, the representatives approved Charles Langelier's proposal to support each library with 2000$C (Gallichan, 1992). Shortly thereafter, libraries in Anglophone communities such as Saint-Roch, Knowlton, Westmount, and Waterloo began to emerge. By 1900, Anglophone librarians such as Charles Gould (McGill University) and Mary Saxe (Westmount) were ensconced in the library profession. Although Gould had hosted the American Library Association at McGill University, few French-Canadian librarians attended the conference (Savard, 1997). Several years later, in 1908, the American Library Association members elected Gould president.

Buildings -- Carnegie Libraries

During the same period, civic leaders interested in building libraries found that funds were limited. Typically, leaders contacted the Andrew Carnegie Corporation (1886-1919) for financial support to construct their building. For example, in 1901, Raymond Préfontaine, mayor of Montreal, requested support for a building (Ferland, 1996; Mittermeyer, 1988). However, all Carnegie grants required communities to provide a site and to pay annually for library operations equivalent to 10% of the grant

(Martin, 1993). When the Carnegie Corporation staff explained the conditions of the grant, many French-Canadian leaders such as those on the Montreal city council refused the offer of 150,000$C (Delorme, 2000; Mittermeyer, 1988; Savard, 1997), because few Quebec cities had taxed citizens for such activities. In contrast, over 135 libraries in Ontario benefitted from the Carnegie generosity and met the annual operations requirement (Berckman et al., 1984).

The Professionalization -- Library Schools

In the early 20th century, three library schools were created. In Quebec province, McGill University served the Anglophone students and the Université de Montréal served the Francophone ones while in Ontario the University of Toronto served other provincial Anglophone students.

With interest in libraries, community leaders began to seek professionally trained librarians. Charles Gould had been tutoring librarians such as Mary Saxe (Westmount) and Annie McDougall (Fraser-Hickson) for several years. Since the demand was so great among Anglophone communities, he decided in consultation with Melvil Dewey (founder of the first U.S. library school) to establish a library school program at McGill University (Hanson, 1994; Savard, 1997).

On the other hand, Francophone librarians were limited and not in great demand. Furthermore, those clergy who did operate a parish library resisted any activities with their Anglophone counterparts (Savard, 1997). In 1937, after extensive discussion

with the Montreal clergy, Marie-Claire Daveluy convinced Université de Montréal administrators to create an "Ecole de Bibliothécaires" (library school). One of the critical points concerning the foundation of this library school was the control of access to books in addition to the issue of "protector of books" (Savard, 1997). Nearly 45% of the students were clergy or lay leaders. These students became not merely librarians or library technicians but Catholic librarians. In order to select books recognized for their ethical values and placed in "moral classifications," they became familiar with the selection tools such as the *Index Librorum Prohibitorum*, *Répertoire alphabétique*, *Je choisis mes auteurs*, *Catholic Periodical Index*, and *Bibliographic Review of Jesuit Americans* (Lafortune & Viens, 1998). The program contained courses in five parts: general bibliography, applied bibliography to the needs of librarians, library administration, specialized bibliography, and censorship. In 1961, the "Ecole de Bibliothéconomie" became a recognized department in the Université de Montréal and offered a bachelor's degree beginning in 1964. Five years later the library school earned accreditation from the American Library Association and in 1970 it began to award a master's degree (MLIS - Ecole de bibliothéconomie et des science de l'information) (Lafortune & Viens, 1998). This final step provided trained librarians for Quebec public libraries (Aubry & Denis, 1976).

In contrast, the Inspector's Office of Ontario strongly supported librarianship. After an unsuccessful attempt to form a

national organization, the Office helped Ontario provincial librarians to form the Ontario Library Association in 1901. In 1911, Inspector Nursey opened a "library school" for one-month sessions later to be expanded into the University of Toronto "library school." In addition, the Office disseminated a professional publication *Ontario Library Review* to keep librarians abreast of the changes in the field of librarianship (Hanson, 1994).

The Conservative Years

On the political front, preceding the founding of the "library school at the Université de Montréal, the Quebec government under Maurice Duplessis (Parti Union Nationale) constantly intervened in federal programs. Since Duplessis believed that the French-Canadians institutions managed by the clergy were sufficient, he consistently refused federally-funded social and cultural programs. Thus Quebec created no public libraries between 1924 to 1941 (Mittermeyer, 1988). Nevertheless, some Catholics in Montreal did not agree with Duplessis and the Bishops' political point of view and formed two groups to study political and social issues: the Association catholique de la jeunesse canadienne-française and the Action sociale catholique (Delorme, 2000; Mittermeyer, 1988).

The Ridington Commission

In 1930, the Canadian government with a Carnegie Corporation grant commissioned an inquest into the status of libraries in

Canada. John Ridington (librarian at the University of British Columbia) presided over the inquest (Crépeau, 1999). The findings were not good for Quebec. The report stated that Quebec was not serving its population (Ferland, 1996). Two issues restricted the development of libraries: religion and language. As for language, the report suggested that Quebec was an "importer" of French and Belgian literature and periodicals rather than an "exporter" of Québécois literature. These findings implied that French Canadians were undereducated (illiterate) and overworked (no time for reading and writing). Ridington recommended that the Quebec government reinforce the parish libraries by authorizing a 200$C contribution annually, moving the library supervision to the division of education in the municipal government, establishing specific legislation for public libraries with secular authority, and creating an organization for cooperation among libraries (Crépeau, 1999). Finally, the Commission concluded that Québécois must create a basis for a library need (source of lendable materials) in each society, must cultivate a habit of library use, and must strive for improved reading.

Following the Ridington Report, Quebec communities gradually acknowledged the need for public libraries. Subsequently, communities built public libraries such as those in Jonquière, Rimouski, Rosemère, Trois-Rivières, Sorel, Victoriaville, Saint-Jérôme, Chicoutimi, and Saint-Laurent.

To counter the French Canadian demand for libraries, Prime

Minister Duplessis formed a Royal Commission in 1953 to study constitutional problems, which included libraries. To help this commission focus on issues concerning libraries, members of the Association canadienne des bibilothécaires de langue française (ACBLF) submitted their concerns (Ferland, 1996). They recommended that the provincial government be responsible for supporting public libraries, that provincial and municipal taxes should pay for basic expenses, that the province legislate a law of public libraries, and that future commissions have representation by professional librarians (Association des bibliothécaires du Québec and ACBLF). The Tremblay Commission concurred with the librarians.

Public Library Law

In late 1959, under a new prime minister, Paul Sauvé, the Quebec National Assembly finally passed the Public Libraries Law which contained 15 brief articles (Loi, 1959). Nine of the articles addressed the activities of a commission of public libraries, three articles listed the importance of the service of libraries, and three articles reiterated the preamble. Noticeably absent was any mention of financial support. Without the financial component, the Law had little impact (Bouthillier, 1995; Crépeau, 1999; Ferland, 1996 & 1998).

The Tranquil Revolution of the 1960s

Although the legal situation in Quebec concerning libraries had not substantially changed, society in the 1960s (Parti

Liberal) was changing in various directions. Québécois (liberal French Canadian nationalists) took advantage of the various movements. In 1960, Montreal again held the American Library Association conference. This time Fraser-Hickson Library staff as well as Québécois librarians were invited and attended. Québécois authors were beginning to write critical essays concerning the clergy and Catholic control of society. In 1961, George-Emile Lapalme, the first Minister of Cultural Affairs assumed the duties of managing the public libraries. In 1962, when Vatican II abolished the *Index Librorum Prohibitorum*, librarians gained control previously unknown over the selection of materials. The number of libraries increased as did the collections. Unfortunately, many of the converted parish libraries became the responsibility of the director of sports and leisure rather than of education and culture at the municipal council. As a result, councils allocated more money for swimming pools, tennis courts, baseball diamonds, and ice rinks than for libraries (Baillargeon, 1992; Bouthillier, 1995; Crépeau, 1999). Québécois demonstrated an increase interest in reading and sometimes even a euphoria for book clubs and reading groups such as "Salon de livre." Nevertheless, funding remained a critical problem (Linteau, 1986).

Legislation was not consistent. The new political elite were still adjusting to their power without the ecclesiastical oversight. In 1972, for instance, librarians still had to purchase books from certain Quebec bookstores containing clergy-

approved books. Then in 1976, the Minister of Cultural Affairs allowed book purchases from a variety of dealers for the best price (Lafortune & Viens, 1998). During this time, politicians struggled with opposing issues: conservation vs. development of culture, recreational vs. educational roles, economics vs. culture, and Québécois vs. French-European literature. They also had to negotiate new regulations for subsidies, standards for operating public libraries, and a publication informing librarians of new activities (Gagnon, 1985).

Subsequently, Minister Denis Vaugeois announced a five-year plan for library growth. The Minister utilized a survey of 70 municipalities identifying where the librarians ranked their needs. The respondents indicated only 14 out of 86 characteristics as essential. The limited perspective of library services could partially explain why Quebec public libraries were ranked last among the provinces (Ferland, 1996; Mittermeyer, 1990). It became evident that librarians needed to view their work as a profession and not merely an administrative job or a recreational activity.

The various professional library organizations began to take a consistent leadership role. For instance, they submitted a code of ethics for librarians similar to the one prepared by the American Library Association. Shortly, thereafter, the Ministry divided the province into regions and facilitated the collaboration of new, small libraries. Consequently, the Public Library Commission ceased to exist and the municipalities assumed

the responsibility for public library administration.

Then the Liberal Party government returned to power and slashed subsidies to libraries (Mittermeyer, 1990). Afterwards the Ministry of Culture and Communications created a commission to study the situation of public libraries. In 1996, a group of politicians decided to revoke the Public Library Act (1959) despite the pleas from the Minister Frulla-Hébert. From then on, the mission and objectives for public libraries rested with the municipal council. As a consolation prize, the Quebec National Assembly provided 3.54$C per citizen for communities with libraries. However, with another government change, Québécois representatives voted to build a 90.6$C million state-of-the-art provincial library--la Grande Bibliothèque Nationale du Québec (Anonymous, 2000; Delorme, 2000; Mittermeyer, 1998; Parent, 1999) rather than to support and improve the already existing libraries (RéseauBiblio, 2001).

Bas-Saint-Laurent

The Bas-Saint-Laurent region is notoriously conservative. Many of the coastal communities date to the 1600s. Nevertheless, in the large villages, people desire to read. The "salon du livre" was the precursor to the regional library system and the public library.

Salons du Livre

One solution for promoting reading among the populus was the salons du livre. Citizens in Mont-Joli and Rimouski were

particular accustomed to meeting on a regular basis to read and discuss books. Rimouski citizens began the practice in the 1920 and reactivated it after World War II in 1948. The rooms were divided by topics such as general literature, family pedagogy, book binding, and books for youth and children. The idea was promoted by the "Dames de Champlain" (similar to the Daughters of the American Revolution) and spread to Trois-Pistoles and Matane (Forten, 1993). They continue even until today.

CRSBP

As part of Quebec Law 52 (1982), Centre Région Sérvice Bibliothèques Publiques (CRSBP) of Bas-Saint-Laurent is a product of the "central lending library" (Bibliothèques Centrales de Prêt-BCP) created in 1975 for the Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspe region. The original BCP promoted the collaboration of communities with a population of less than 5000. Through contracts with the municipality, the BCP assured citizens access to information and materials (Gagnon, 1985). The BCP staff were responsible for most of the technical services (selections, acquisitions, and cataloging) and some reference services. The staff also organized poster displays and activities which toured the region.

The CRSBP services and materials are shared now among the 96 member libraries in the region of Bas-Saint-Laurent (Soutien, 2001). An administrative council of elected members manage the operation from Rivière-du-Loup. The operational goals include the creation and maintenance of collections for public use.

Member librarians strive to encourage cultural programs which promote the exchange of information. To this end, CRSBP has on-line catalog services called "TAOS" and also ships boxes of new books eight times each year to local libraries. Most local librarians are volunteers who may participate in regularly scheduled workshops.

Trois-Pistoles - Bibliothèque Anne-Marie d'Amour

In 1966, the municipal government of Trois-Pistoles (3800 pop.) agreed to create a public library to meet citizen demand. The municipality found funds to construct a stand-alone building that commemorates the 100th anniversary of the 1867 Confederation. The library was named after Anne-Marie d'Amour, a local patron. The director of leisure sports and culture still oversees the budget and general operations.

In nearly forty years of operation, only two librarians have managed the library. The current librarian is self-taught. Her previous volunteer experience was an important asset when she assumed the duties of librarian in 1974. She currently works 20 hours per week and chooses not to use volunteers except for special programs. The library is open weekdays during the afternoons and evenings. She has been an active participant in many of the CRSBP workshops and promotes cultural events in Trois-Pistoles. Over the years, the library has received several awards and it is featured on the CRSBP brochure. CRSBP members elected this librarian president of the administrative council for a six-year term from 1994 to 2000.

Since the CRSBP staff perform the technical services, the Trois-Pistoles librarian's major responsibilities are circulation, reference, and program development. Her circulation duties constitute managing materials for the 50% of the population who hold library cards. Patrons may borrow four books, two cassette tapes, and one video at a time. They pay a charge of 2.50$ per hour for Internet connectivity. Presently, the library has five on-line computers in the main room and seven in an adjacent room. These computers were acquired through a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant. There are two additional computers connected to the on-line catalog system. The interlibrary loan service is one way to supplement the collection of materials, which is only in French. Many patrons and bookstores donate books to the library. In this case after the books have been assessed for collection development, the librarian copy-catalogs them and enters the information on TAOS. Unlike the CRSBP books (5,000 titles) which rotate among the member libraries, these donated books (8,000 titles) remain as a permanent collection. The librarian is responsible for repairing damaged books. Many of books are paperbacks and consequently, the bindings easily break under heavy use.

Reference services vary depending on the patron. There is a collection of encyclopeadias, handbooks, directories, almanacs, and dictionaries. Increasingly, answers to reference questions are found on web pages over the Internet. Because Trois-Pistoles is the cross-roads between Quebec and the Gaspe and between the

North Shore and Maine (USA), the population increases by 50% in the summer. A large student population as well as tourists residing at one of two campgrounds frequently visit the library with questions.

Program development takes the majority of time. For example, four times a year according to the seasons, there is a children's reading competition. Children are encouraged to read 20 books during each program. New children's books arrive for each reading program to replace previously received books. Prizes include T-shirts, portable stereos, and 250$C to purchase books at regional bookstores.

Several cultural events increase patron use of the library. Each October, the Division of Culture sponsors "Les Grandes Geulles" a festival of stories and tales in French. The meetings are held in various rooms adjacent to the library as well as locations around the village. In May, the "Tourbillon Culturel" occurs with some events at the library. The "Salon du livre" continues to be popular. Local authors and artists assemble to discuss their works. Throughout the year, artists exhibit their paintings on the library walls as an incentive for the local population to visit the library.

Saint-Clement

The village library of Saint-Clement (600 pop.) also has CRSBP membership. Originally, it was the parish library; however, in 1980 it was moved into the Hôtel de Ville (village

hall). Now, fourteen volunteers with limited training share the responsibility of maintaining evening hours. The budget is 250$C per year. Approximately 200 books and poster exhibits regularly rotate in and out the library from the CRSBP headquarters or member libraries. Patrons may borrow three books on a three-week cycle. The volunteers are responsible only for circulation duties including the collection of fines for over-due books and videos. This library has one computer with Internet connection for patrons in need of on-line research capabilities. As more tourist spend weekends in Saint-Clement, the volunteers antcipate an increased demand for library services such as Internet connections to read email and to conduct research and reference assistance.

Conclusion

The nationalistic Québécois continue to lobby for an independent French-speaking province. For some, Catholicism remains an important component of life while others have left the faith and actively oppose the role of the Church. Although branch libraries are increasing in the urban centers such as Montréal, Québec, Trois-Rivières, Chicoutimi, and Jonquière, a large number of librarians still lack masters degrees in library science and libraries remain staffed by volunteers or technicians. In addition, the library shelves lack a wide selection of books and videos (Morin & Lajeuness, 1996). Furthermore, many municipal councils still locate libraries under

the supervision of their director of sports and culture rather than their director of education (Crépeau, 1999). Circulation regulations restrict borrowing to residents in the local parish even though these are public regional libraries. Censorship, limited selection policies, and intellectual freedom issues are a constant concern to librarians (Delorme, 2000; Hébert, 1995). With centralized processing and rotation of collections, librarians have difficulties customizing their collection to fit the needs of their community. Interlibrary loan is available; however, it is a service only for residents and often at a cost.

Although there presently appears still to be a lack of cooperation among librarians, Quebec librarians are joining specialize organizations to facilitate their collaboration among school libraries, special collections, academic libraries, and the public libraries even when the librarians are in adjacent buildings (Bouthillier, 1996; Crépeau, 1999). Computer technology appears to enable this collaboration so that librarians may obtain sophisticated research skills as well as technical ones. Distance education courses and on-line reference services are becoming an important international service. Undoubtedly, technology may force librarians to cooperate despite the political climate of the province. The province of Quebec, the municipalities, and the librarians still have much to do to improve the qualify and quantity of service. It behooves politicians to promote informed, literate citizens. After all, "knowledge is power."

Notes

1. The course, "history, society, and politics of Quebec," is offered during the summer at L'Ecole de langue française de Trois-Pistoles (University of Western Ontario).

2. The amount calculated by "How Much is it Worth Today" web site: www.eh.net/ehresources/howmuch/poundq.php
40,149.12 UK pounds = 92,066$C (2.2936) or $58,738 US (1.4630).

3. These arguments were similar to those made by Catholics in the United States concerning education and libraries.

4. Société littéraire et historique de Québec, 44, rue Saint-Stanislas, Quebec, QC G1R 4H3 (418) 694-9147. Current librarian is Caroline Lamonthe. The street name is in the process of being changed.

5. The practice of banning books also exists among Protestant communities today in Canada and the United States.

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Interviews and Visits

Michel Rioux - Director, Sports and Culture, Trois-Pistoles Municipal Government (July 2001)

Nicole Sirois - Librarian, Anne Marie d'Amour Bibliothèque Municipale de Trois-Pistoles (July 2001)

Emilie Rioux - Assistant Librarian (summer), Anne Marie d'Amour Bibliothèque Municipale de Trois-Pistoles (July 2001)

Sisters, Residence of Jesus-Marie, Trois-Pisotles (July 2001)

Volunteer, Saint-Clement, Public Library (July 2001)

Public Libraries Visited:
Havre-Aubert (Iles-de-la-Madeleine)
www2/globtrotter.net/crsbp/bb024.th

Jonquière (Saguenay-Lac Saint-Jean)
www.jonquiere.biblio.qc.ca

Quebec/Institut Canadien de Quebec
Saint-Jean-Baptiste
www.icqbdq.qc.ca

Saint-Pierre et Miquelon (France)
www.ccfr.bnf.fr/rnbcd_visa/bibdetail.html

Trois-Pistoles (Bas-Saint-Laurent)
www.crsbp.net/bibliotheques/trois-pistoles.html

Trois-Rivières (Coeur-du-Québec)
www.biblomcq.qc.ca/Trois-Rivieres/info_general/Index.asp
<biblio@globtrotter.net>

Academic Libraries Visited:
CEGEP à Jonquière
college.cjonquiere.qc.ca/webCollege/serv_eleves/
etudes/frameetude.html

Literary & Historical Society Library of Quebec

Université du Québec à Rimouski
wwwb.uqar.uquebec.ca

Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
www.uqtr.uquebec.ca/biblio

Organizations

Association du personnel des services documentaires scolaire (APSDS)

Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED) % Danielle Alenandre
<info@asted.org>

Association professionnelle des techniciennes et techniciens en documentation du Québec (APTDQ)

Les Bibliothèques publiques du Québec (BPQ)

Corporation des bibliothécaires professionnels du Québec (CBPQ)
[Argus: la revue des bibliothécaires professionnels]
www.cbpq.qc.ca

Ecole de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information, Université de Montréal % Benoit Ferland

Regroupement des centres regionaux de services aux bibliothèques publiques (CRSBP) <info@cbpq.qc.ca>
(Bas-Saint-Laurent) [OPAC - catalog service]
www.crsbp.net/profil.html
<info.biblio@monteregie.crsbp.qc.ca>
1 (800) 668-7733 .

Appendix - A

Chronology of Library-Related Events[1]

1635	Quebec - Seminary of Quebec creates a Jesuit College library (Laval's donations)
1638	Cambridge, MA (USA) - 1st printing press in North America & Harvard Seminary Library created
1724	Boston, MA (USA) - 1st booksellers convention
1693	Quebec - The clergy burn books while the Recollets and Jesuits build libraries for seminarians.
1730	Philadelphia, PA (USA) - 1st Public Library in North America
1749-59	Quebec - Bishop complains about the poor quality of books reaching parish houses
1770s	Montreal - Fleury Mesplet organizes "Cabinets de lecture"
1779-1847	Quebec - Sir Frederick Haldimand (Swiss Protestant) creates the first bilingual subscription library in the Bishop's Palace (allocates 500 L each French/English books)
1791	Quebec - Constitution Act, division of the territory Bas-Canada (French, Catholic) and Haut-Canada (English, Protestant)
1795	Quebec - Elite French Catholique and the clergy complain that the Haldimand library is a political ploy to get Québécois to speak English and convert to protestant religions
1824	Quebec - Literary and Historical Society Library Earl of Dalhousie - founder (private - Anglophone library)
1825	Ottawa - Assembly votes that libraries should be accessible to the public

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[1]Depending upon which language constituency the library serves, the notes are in French for the Québécois and English for the "Loyalists." For comparison purposes, U.S. events are included such as those from Madison, Wisconsin.

1827 Montreal - James McGill donates estate (1811) to the founding of the McGill University, Medical Library
% Dr. Alexander Holmes
Rev. J. Abbott - Librarian (1848)
Main Library (1860s)

1828 Montreal - Mechanical Library

1834 Peterborough, NH (USA) - Public Library (self-taxed)

1838 Robert Nelson proclaims the "Republique du Bas-Canada"

1840 The Union Act
Lord Durham proclaims English as the official language of Canada

1841 Quebec - Education Act (dual systems by language)
Parish libraries and parochial education

1844-80 Montreal - Institut Canadien de Montréal

1844 Rome - *Index Librorum Prohibitorum* (Dictum Roma)
Libraries become the responsibility of parish clergy
Mgr. Bourget, Bishop of Montreal, condemns the Institut Canadien

1848 Quebec - Institut Canadien de Québec
[public accessibility since 1950]
Boston, MA (USA) - 1st city financed Public Library

1849 New Hampshire (USA) - Public Library Act

1850 Great Britain - Public Libraries Act

1852 Quebec - Université Laval - Bibliothèque privée
(Seminary of Quebec Library)

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1867 Canadian Confederation
The Province of Quebec recognized

1867-1873 Parti Conservateur - Pierre-J. O. Chauveau (PM-Quebec, the first Prime Minister)

1874-1878 Parti Conservateur - C.-B. de Boucherville (PM-Quebec

1874 Montreal - Y.W.C.A. Public Library

1875 Madison, WI (USA) - Public Library (1866 library in City Hall)

1878-79 Parti Libéral - Henri-G. Joly (PM-Quebec)

1879-82 Parti Conservateur - J.-Adolphe Chapleau (PM-Quebec)

1882 Ontario - Public Library Law

1883 New Brunswick - Saint John Public Library (1st Canadian tax-supported public)

1884-87 Parti Conservateur - John Jones Ross (PM-Quebec)

1884 Toronto, ON - Public Library

1885 Montreal - Fraser Institute Library serves Anglophones
David S. Leach - Librarian (1885-1886)
R.W. Boodle - Librarian (1886-1897)
Eugène F. Malcouronne - Librarian (1897-1901)
Pierre B. de Crèvecoeur - Librarian (1901-1930)
Annie G. McDougall - Librarian (1898/1930-1945)

1887-91 Parti National - Honoré Mercier (PM-Quebec)

1887 New York, NY (USA) - Columbia College (University), 1st Library School program in North America
Melvil Dewey - founder

1890 Ottawa - **Law permits municipalities to create and assist public libraries without imposing any financial obligations.** [Charles Langelier proposes to support each library with 2000$C.]

1890-92 Saint-Roch, QC - Bibliothèque des ouvriers
Curé François-Honaré Belanger - sponsor

1891-92 Parti Conservateur - Charles Boucherville (PM-Quebec)

1891 British Columbia - Public Library Law

1892-96 Parti Conservateur - L.-Olivier Taillon (PM-Quebec)

1893 Montreal - McGill University, Redpath Library
Charles Gould - Librarian
146,000 titles (1919)

1894 Knowlton (Lac Brome), QC - Public Library

1897-00 Parti Libéral - F.-Gabriel Marchand (PM-Quebec)

1897 Montreal - Westmount Public Library serves Anglophone
Charles Gould - chief selector based on ALA list, 5000 titles (1899)
Beatrice Moore - Chief Librarian (1898-1901)
Mary Saxe - Chief Librarian (1901-1941)
Quebec province - 28 libraries (majority serve Anglophones)

1887 Ontario - Toronto Public Library (tax supported)

1899 Manitoba - Public Library Law

1900 Waterloo, QC - Public Library

1900 Montreal - American Library Association meets at the invitation of McGill University and Charles Gould

1900-05 Parti Libéral - S.-Napoléon Parent (PM-Quebec)

1904 Montreal - McGill University, Library School program
Charles Gould - founder
Melvil Dewey - consultant
Association Catholique de la Jeunesse Canadienne-Française (ACJC)

1905-1920 Parti Libéral - Lomer Gouin (PM-Quebec)

1906 Saskatchewan - Public Library Law
Madison, WI (USA) - Library School program
(Wisconsin Free Library Commission - diploma)
1938 University of Wisconsin - BA degree
1939 American Library Association accreditation
1950 University of Wisconsin - MA degree

1907 Alberta - Public Library Law
1907 Action Sociale Catholique (ASC)

1908 Charles Gould (McGill University) - President of the American Library Association

1911 Ontario - Library School (Toronto)
1911 Bibliothèque Institut Nazareth et Louis Braille

1913 Montreal - Bibliothèque de l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales (Université de Montréal)

1914 Montreal - Jewish Public Library
(80% English, 15% Hebrew, 5% French)

1915 Quebec - Bibliothèque Saint-Sulpice (reopened 1933-1944)

1916 Quebec - Municipal Code, permits (no obligation) the creation of public libraries; provides no financial support

1917 Montréal - Bibliothèque Municipale (proposed in 1902) merges with Bibliothèque Municipale (Société de Saint-Jean-Baptiste 1903)

Parti Conservateur - Borden (PM-Canada)

1920 Rimouski, QC - Seminary of Rimouski Library (25,000 titles) [1969 became Université du Québec à Rimouski]

1920-1936 Parti Libéral - L.-Alexandre Taschereau (PM-Quebec)

1923 Shawinigan, QC - Public Library

1929 New Brunswick - Public Library Law

1929 Montreal - Children's Library established by the Montreal Council of Women and housed in the Fraser-Hickson Library

1930-33 Carnegie Corporation funds survey of Canadian Libraries

Ottawa - John Ridington's report on the status of Canadian libraries

Parti National Social Chrétien - Adrien Arcand (PM-Canada)

1935 Newfoundland - Public Library Law

1936-39 Parti Union Nationale - Maurice Duplessis (PM-Quebec)

1937 Nova Scotia - Public Library Law

1937 Montreal - Université de Montréal creates Ecole de Bibliothéconomie (et des Sciences de l'Information) diploma

Department status created in 1961 with BA degree

ALA accredits the program in 1969

MLS offered in 1970

Canada = 642 libraries (Ontario = 460; Quebec 26/17 Anglophone)

1939-44 Parti Libéral - Adélard Godbout (PM-Quebec)

1942 Jonquière, QC - Bibliothèque Municipale

1943 Association canadienne des bibliothécaires de

langue française (ACBLF)
Archbishop of Montréal - sponsor
(Cardinal Rodrigue Villeneuve)
Paul-André Trudeau - founder
Paul-Aimé Martin - founder
[Association canadienne des bibliothèques d'institutions (ACBI), Association des bibliothèques paroissiales, Association canadienne des bibliothèques catholiques (ACBC)]

1944-59 Parti Union Nationale - Maurice Duplessis (PM-Quebec)

1944 Rimouski, QC - Bibliothèque Municipale (1st public library in Bas-Saint-Laurent, 1,300 titles)
Valleyfield, QC - Public Library

1945 Rosemère, QU - Public Library

1946 Canadian Library Association (limited Francophone representation)

1946 Trois-Rivières, QC - Bibliothèque Municipale

1947 Sorel, QC - Public Library
Revue des Bibliothèques (Bulletin de l'ACBLF)

1948 Victoriaville, QC - Public Library

1949 Saint-Jérôme, QC - Bibliothèque Municipale

1950 Chicoutimi, QC - Bibliothèque Municipale
Saint-Laurent, QC - Bibliothèque Municipale

1953 Quebec - La Commission royale d'enquête sur les problèmes constitutionnels (Thomas Tremblay)

1955 Bulletin de l'ACBLF (ARGUS) - serves Francophone librarians
Rivière-du-Loup, QC - Bibliothèque Municipale (2,000 titles)

1958 Rome - Death of Pope Pius XII and election of Pope John XXIII

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1959 Quebec - Assemblée Législative de Québec. Loi concernant les bibliothèques publiques.

1959 Montreal - Fraser-Hickson Library begins service to children

LEGISLATION AND STUDIES (1960-63)[2]
[Parti Libéral]

1960-66 Parti Libéral - Jean Lesage (PM-Quebec)

1960 Montreal - American Library Association, 79th conference. ALA board recognizes Fraser-Hickson Library.
Quebec - Libraries serve 45% of the population with 71 public libraries (21 city financed). Contributions at a rate of 0.54$C.
Publication of *Les Insolences de Frère Untel*

1961 Quebec - George-Emile Lapalme, 1st Prime Minister of Cultural Affairs (MAC responsible for public libraries)
Creates "Office de la langue française"
Creates "Bibliothèques Centrale de Prêt (BCP)
BCP - Région de la Maurice

1962 Rome - Vatican II abolishes *Index Librorum Prohibitorum*

1963 Quebec public libraries 85 (32 municipal financed)

REGULATIONS, EVOLUTION, NETWORKS (1964-1972)

1964 Rimouski, QC - "Salon de Livre" created to promote reading
Quebec - Pierre LaPorte becomes 2nd Prime Minister of Cultural Affairs. Writes the 1st white paper on cultural politics.
BCP - Région de l'Outaouais

1966-68 Parti Union Nationale - Daniel Johnson (PM-Quebec)

1967 Trois-Pistoles, QC - Bibliothèque Municipale (7,643 titles)
Nicole Sirois - Librarian (1974-present)
Quebec - Bibliothèque Saint-Sulpice becomes Bibliothèque Nationale du Quebec
Quebec province - 114 Libraries

1968 Amqui, QC - Bibliothèque Municipale (5,865 titles)

1969 Matane, QC - Bibliothèque Municipale (7,714 titles)

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[2]See: Gagnon, G. (1985). La politique d'aide au développement les bibliothèques publiques du Québec (1960-1985).

1968-70 Parti Union Nationale - Jean-Jacques Bertrand (PM-Quebec)

1970 Quebec - Public libraries serve 63% of population

1970-76 Parti Libéral - Robert Bourassa (PM-Quebec)

1972 Quebec - Legislation: The fundamentals of book politics
BCP - Région du Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean

REINVESTIGATION (1973-76)
[Parti Libéral]

1974 Association pour l'avancement des sciences et techniques de la documentation (AASTD)
Quebec - French is the official language of Quebec

1975 BCP - Région du Bas-Saint-Laurent-Gaspésie

1976-85 Parti Québécois - René Lévesque (PM-Quebec)

1976 Quebec - MAC publishes a new statement on book politics which enables libraries to buy books from a variety of dealers.
BCP - Région de l'Abitibi-Temiscamingue

ACCELLERATION OF DEVELOPMENT (1977-79)
[Parti Québécois]

1977 Quebec - Revision of the Law on Public Libraries
Creation of CRSBP
BCP - Région de l'Estrie
Law 101 "Charte de la langue française"

1978 Quebec - MCA: Denis Vaugeois announces 5-year plan for expansion and growth. [Province = 23% using public library, 50% using bookstores, 44% illiterate]. Quebec PLs provided 0.89 books per person, had 136 professional librarians, spent 3.80$C per person, and utilized 10.6 sq. meters per 1000 persons.
Corporation des bibliothécaires professionnels du Québec write the 1st code of ethics
BCP - Région Sud de Montréal

1979 Des Portages, QC - Bibliothèque Municipale (32,953 titles)
BCP - Région de la Côte-Nord
BCP - Région des Portages

Bas-Saint-Laurent Libraries (Trois-Pistoles, Matane, Mont-Joli, Rimouski) organize "Salons de Livre"

EQUIPMENT & SERVICE PLAN (1980-85)
[Parti Québécois]

1980 Le Centre regional de services aux bibliothèques publiques (CRSBP) du Bas-Saint-Laurent founded and headquarters at Rivière-du-Loup [split from BCP]

1981 Quebec - Law: Development of enterprises including bookstores. Library budgets increased to promote purchases.
BCP - Région des Laurentides

1982 Quebec - Clement Richard, MCA, creates regional subdivisions and abolishes the Public Library Commission

1985-94 Parti Libéral - Robert Bourassa (PM-Quebec)

1985 Quebec - Public libraries serve 85% of the population

CHANGES IN PRIORITIES (1986-94)
[Parti Libéral]

1986 Quebec - MCA announces substantial cuts in financial support to 873 public libraries
Mont-Joli, QC - Bibliothèque Municipale (16,862 titles)
Association des directeurs de bibliothèques publiques du Québec submit a report on the state of PLs in Quebec and recommendations.

1987 Quebec - La Commission d'Etude sur les Bibliothèques Publiques
Quebec - Francophone Summit of heads of state

1990 Quebec - Draft of Public Library Law (1959) revisions

1992 Quebec - Lisa Frulla-Hébert, MCA, states public libraries are critical resources

1992 Quebec - Law on the Minister of Culture. Repeal of the Law of Public Libraries (1959).

1993 Quebec - Law on the development of Quebec Book Business Public Libraries become the

responsibility of municipal governments.
Quebec Province - 456 libraries
Trois-Pistoles - Nicole Sirois becomes president of the Administrative Council for the Central Region of Public Library Services (CRSBP-Bas-Saint-Laurent). CRSBP has 96 affiliated public libraries.

1994-96 Parti Québécois - Jacques Parizeau (PM-Quebec)

TECHNOLOGY & FUNDING (1995-01)
[Parti Québécois]

1996-01 Parti Québécois - Lucien Bouchard (PM-Quebec)

1996 Quebec - National Assembly contributes 3.54$C per person to municipal public libraries

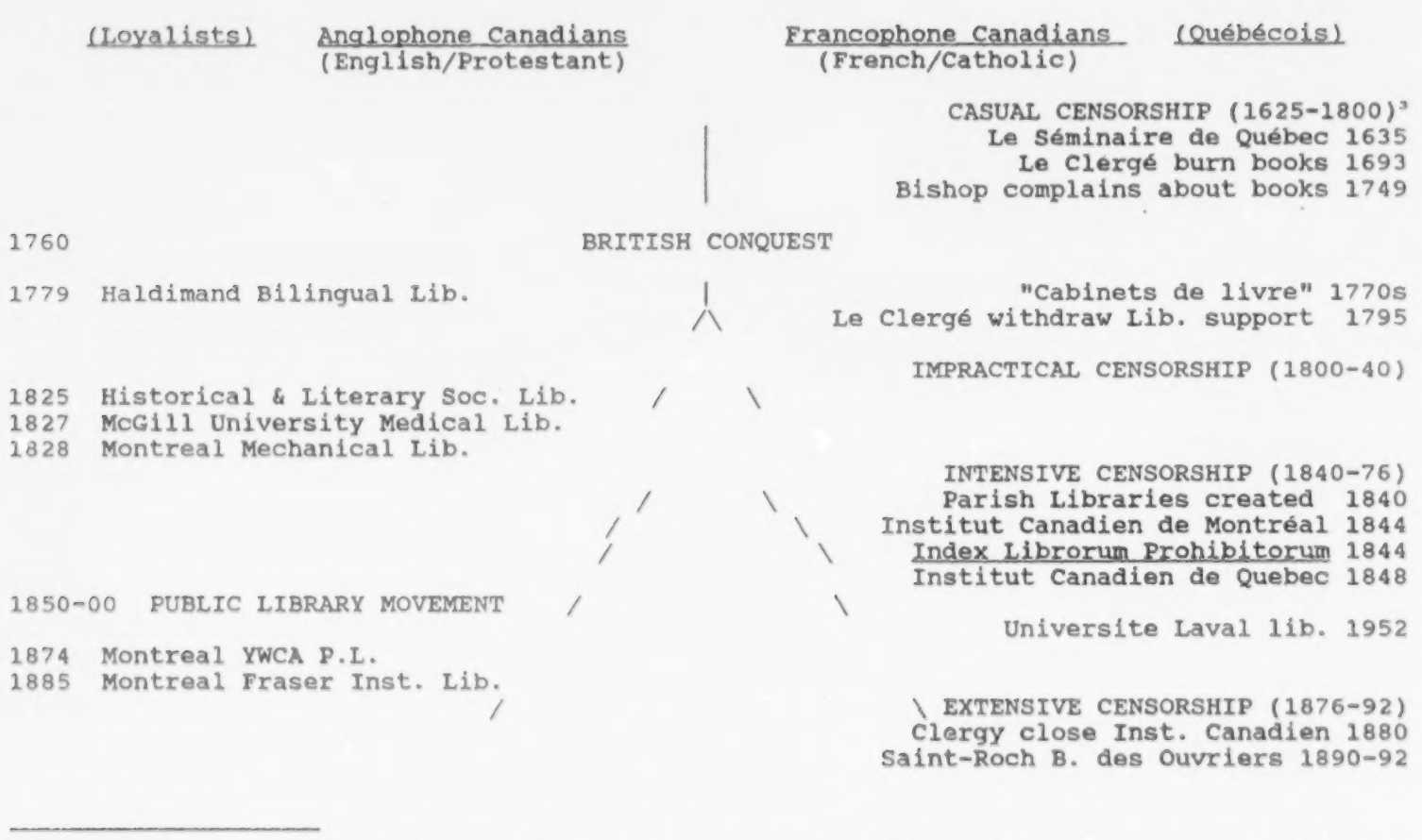
1997 Calgary Declaration - Québéc National Assembly has right to protect the ethnic integrity of the province (French).

1998 Quebec - MCC: Louise Beaudoin publishes *Le Temps de lire, un art de vivre. La politique de la lecture et du livre.*

2000 Quebec - National Assembly approves 90.6$C million to construct a 33,000 sq. meter Grande Bibliothèque du Québec. Building to combine Bibliothèque Municipale and Bibliothèque Nationale du Québec.
Trois-Pistoles - Library serves 50% of village population (3800) with a collection allocation of 4 books for each person.

2001- Parti Québécois - Bernard Landry (PM-Quebec)

Appendix - B


(Loyalists)
Anglophone Canadians (English/Protestant)
Francophone Canadians (French/Catholic)
(Québécois)
CASUAL CENSORSHIP (1625-1800)[3]
Le Séminaire de Québec 1635
Le Clergé burn books 1693
Bishop complains about books 1749
1760 BRITISH CONQUEST
1779 Haldimand Bilingual Lib.
"Cabinets de livre" 1770s
Le Clergé withdraw Lib. support 1795
IMPRACTICAL CENSORSHIP (1800-40)
1825 Historical & Literary Soc. Lib.
1827 McGill University Medical Lib.
1828 Montreal Mechanical Lib.
INTENSIVE CENSORSHIP (1840-76)
Parish Libraries created 1840
Institut Canadien de Montréal 1844
Index Librorum Prohibitorum 1844
Institut Canadien de Quebec 1848
1850-00 PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVEMENT
Universite Laval lib. 1952
1874 Montreal YWCA P.L.
1885 Montreal Fraser Inst. Lib.
EXTENSIVE CENSORSHIP (1876-92)
Clergy close Inst. Canadien 1880
Saint-Roch B. des Ouvriers 1890-92

[3]Censorship dates based upon the work of P. Hébert, La croix et l'ordre: le clergé et la censure de l'imprimé au Québec. Documentation et bibliothèques.

INTENSIVE CENSORSHIP (1892-13)

1893 McGill Univ. Redpath Lib.
1894 Knowlton P.L. /

\
Bishops oppose Liberal Party 1896

1897 Westmount P.L.
1900 Waterloo P.L.
1900 American Library Assoc.
1904 McGill Univ. "Lib. Sch."
1906 Gould (McGill), Pres. of ALA

ACJC 1904

ASC 1907
I. Nazareth et Louis Braille 1911

/ \

EXTENSIVE CENSORSHIP (1913-40)
B. de l'Ecole des H.E. 1913

1914 Jewish P.L.

B.M. de Montréal 1917

1923 Shawinigan P.L.

Univ. de Montréal "Lib. Sch." 1937

\ /

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT (1940-60)[4]

\ / B.M. de Jonquière 1942
Assoc. C. Bib. Lang. Fran. 1943
1944 Valleyfield P.L. B.M. de Rimouski 1944
B.M. de Rosemère 1945
1946 Canadian Library Assoc. \ / B.M. de Trois-Rivières 1946
B.M. de Sorel 1947
B.M. de Victoriaville 1948
B.M. de Saint-Jérôme 1949
B.M. de Chicoutimi 1950
B.M. de Saint-Laurent
B.M. de Drummondville 1951

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[4]See Mittermeyer, D. (1988). Le Développement des bibliothèques publicque du Québec, pages 40-41.

B.M de Rouyn-Noranda
B.M. de Val d'Or 1952
B.M. de Mont-Royal 1953
B.M. de Sept-Iles
1954 Hull P.L. B.M. de Saint-Hyacinthe 1954
Sherbrooke P.L. B.M. de Saint Lambert
B.M. de Rivière-du-Loup 1955
B.M. de Arthabaska 1958
B.M. de Asbestos
B.M. de Coaticook
B.M. de Farnham
B.M. de Lasalle
B.M. de Plessisville
B.M. de Baie d'Urfé 1959
B.M. de Laval
B.M. de Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu
B.M. de Beloeil 1960
B.M. de La Malbaie
B.M. de La Baie
B.M. de Pierrefonds
B.M. de Port-Cartier

CENTRALIZED, STATE-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES

1959 Public Library Law

1960 American Library Association (Québécois librarians attend)

1961-70 49 public libraries created

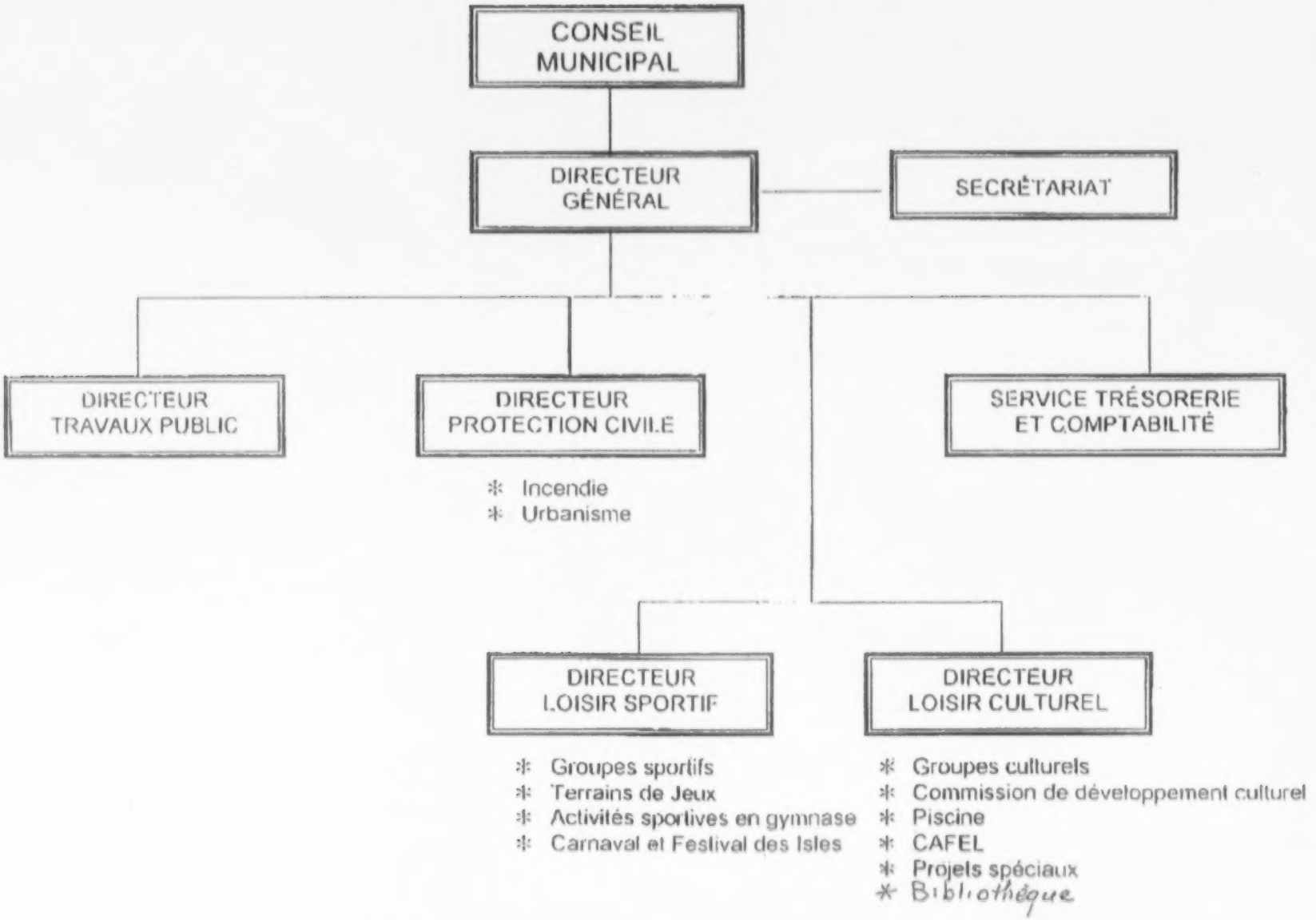
1962 Repeal of Index Librorum Prohibitorum

1971-80 31 public libraries created (1977 77 PLs)

DECENTRALIZED REGIONAL NETWORKS
(BCP/CRSBP)

1981-85 14 public libraries created (1985 132 PLs)

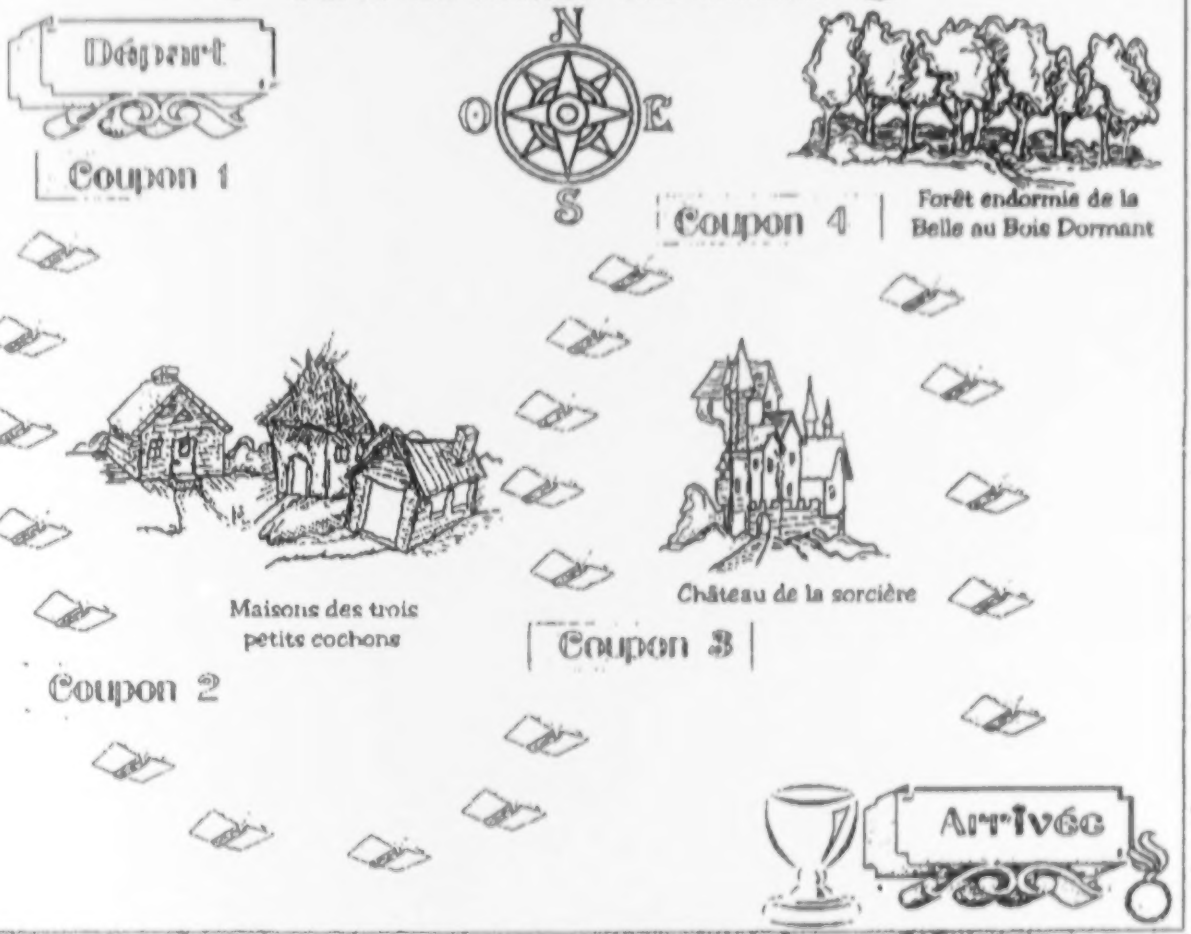
1985-92 15 public libraries created (1992 147 PLs)



Notes : * Chacun des services est en liaison avec le Conseil municipal par un conseiller municipal affecté au Service
* De façon général, le Service supporte les interventions locales en matières de sport, de culture et de vie communautaire.
* Assurer le leadership en suscitant des initiatives.

Il était une fois... Un méli-mélo de contes!

Carte du monde des contes



Cette carte du monde des contes appartient à:

Nom: _____

Bibliothèque municipale de: _____

No. D'abonné: _____

Comme participant(e) au club de lecture 2001,
je m'engage à lire _____ livres au cours de l'été.
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Votre bibliothèque... une richesse collective

Votre bibliothèque municipale, affiliée au C.R.S.B.P. du Bas-Saint-Laurent, vous donne accès à une collection importante de volumes, de vidéocassettes, de cédéroms et de périodiques destinés au prêt. En tant qu'utilisateur, vous bénéficiez également de collections spécialisées comprenant des livres en gros caractères, des livres lus sur cassettes, des ouvrages régionaux ainsi que de la littérature classique.

Chaque année, le fonds de bibliothèque s'enrichit de nouveaux documents pour mieux répondre aux besoins et aux demandes des usagers.

Grâce au service de rotation de volumes du Réseau BIBLIO, votre bibliothèque reçoit de nouveaux titres huit fois par année. Ce service permet de renouveler les étalages de votre bibliothèque et d'y ajouter des nouveautés.

Le service de prêt interbiblio (PIB) demandes spécialesi vous offre de plus la possibilité de demander un livre qui ne se trouve pas à votre bibliothèque.

À votre bibliothèque municipale, vous pouvez compter sur le soutien d'un personnel fort compétent. Dans la plupart des municipalités, les personnes-ressources sont des bénévoles qui donnent gratuitement leur temps pour assurer le maintien du service de bibliothèque. Les remerciements qu'elles reçoivent souvent traduisent bien la qualité des services qu'elles donnent.